

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

15. (New) A support element for mutually bracing a fuel injector and a fuel-distributor line, comprising:
 at least a first portion for bracing against the fuel injector; and
 at least a second portion for bracing against the fuel-distributor line;
 wherein the support element prevents radial forces from being applied to the fuel injector.
16. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 15, wherein the support element includes a clamp and tabs.
17. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 16, wherein the clamp is braced at a shoulder of the fuel-distributor line.
18. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 16, wherein the tabs are supported at a shoulder of the fuel injector.
19. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 16, wherein the clamp has a slot in a region of an electrical connection element of the fuel injector.
20. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 16, wherein the clamp is made from spring steel by stamping.

21. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 16, wherein the clamp has edges that are radially folded over to the inside and abut against the fuel injector.

22. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 16, wherein the support element has one of a rectangular and square cross-section.

23. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 16, wherein the support element braces the fuel injector with respect to the fuel-distributor line.

24. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 16, wherein the fuel injector is installed in a valve seat of a cylinder head of an internal combustion engine, and wherein the support element is guided by the cylinder head.

25. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 16, wherein the tabs of the support element have a circumferential groove.

26. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 25, wherein the circumferential groove engages with a projection formed at a shoulder of the fuel injector.

27. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 26, wherein the shoulder formed on the fuel injector is radially inclined inwardly at a selected angle.

28. (New) The support element as recited in Claim 27, wherein contact surfaces of the tabs of the support element are inclined at an angle substantially similar to the selected angle.